Pollution Level on Indian Coasts

†4019. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level at Indian Coasts is increasing and whether Government have conducted any survey to check it;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof;

(c) whether industrial waste from foreign countries is being poured into the sea near Indian Coasts; and

(d) if so, the names of the countries which have been doing so during the last three years and the preventive steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Under a long term Pollution Monitoring Programme of Department of Ocean Development (DOD), data on pollution parameters collected at several locations along the coastline in the last ten years indicate that the coastal waters beyond 2 km is clean, except off Mumbai where the coastal water is clean beyond 5 km. Further in this 2Km area, very few locations have indicated localised pollution and these include the coastal waters off Mumbai and small sectors in the cost of Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai. The data collected have indicated that there are no significant changes in the pollution levels over the years at many locations except in the case of creeks of Mumbai and Puri where there are improvements in water quality.

(c) and (d) No reports of dumping of hazardous industrial wastes along the Indian Coasts have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Expeditions by Ministry of Ocean Development

4020. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken any expedition during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has achieved any major breakthroughs in its expeditions during that period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, sir. On behalf of Govt. of India, this Department has launched one scientific expedition each to Antarctica during the last five year.

(b) Since 1981, this Department has been organizing annually one scientific expedition to Antarctica. Till 1998, these expeditions were launched from Goa. From 1999, the scientific expedition has been launched from Cape Town, South Africa, resulting in a substantial savings in expenditure and voyage time. The saved journey period is utilised for scientific studies at Antarctica. On an average 60 members including scientists participated in each expedition.

(c) and (d) During the past five years many experiments have been mounted in various domains of polar science yielding exciting results.

The salient achievements of the Indian Antarctic Expedition are as follows:

- Three component seismometer was commissioned and installed in an underground seismic vault.
- Trial test of Polymer Electrolyte Memberane Fuel Cell and wind energy audit was carried out for application studies.
- Permanent analog Very Low Frequency monitoring station was established.
- Albedo and radition budget estimation on one year round basis was conducted.
- Brewer Spectrophotometer was installed to measure total ozone, SO_2 and Direct Ultra Violet.
- Seasons variation of geomagnetic field and total magnetic field intensity mapped.
- Two remote Automatic Weather Stations installed with Data Collection Platform which recorded various surface energy flux on an annual basis with energy loss estimated at 45 W/sqm.
- Digital Seismometer was made operational with Global Positioning System, which recorded 360 seismic events.
- Real time analysis of Very Low Frequency Whistlers was achieved.
- Permanent environmental lab was established at Maitri.
- Presence of exogenous pollen grains in lake sediments were recorded.
- Lake sediments were dated back to 10000 years.
- Several new species of low grade flora and fauna were recorded.

Polar Remote Sensing: Through polar remote sensing interesting seasonal variation in sea-ice cover has been observed and large-scale features in Antarctica have also been identified confirming to the known surveyed features. Similarly, TOPEX/Poseidon data has been analyzed to study the currents, eddites and convergence zone in Antarctic waters.

Rail over-bridge at Kadipikonda

4021. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHIR K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a demand for the last four decades for a rail over-bridge at Kadipikonda in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether thousands of people took out a rally in February, 2002, for construction of the over-bridge;

(c) if so, the action proposed in matter; and

(d) the allocation made therefor, during this budget;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. State Govt. first raised the issue in 1985 only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge was sanctioned in 1992-93 on cost sharing basis. Even Estimate amounting to Rs. 13.73 crore was also sanctioned in March' 1993. Work could not be taken up because of change of Road Over Bridge location by State Govt. Now, joint survey has been conducted and General Arrangement Drawing prepared as per latest site details which is under finalization.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been provided during 2002-03 for this work

Quantum of Rail freight

†4022. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of freight being carried by trains in the country is decreasing continuously;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.